



Winter 2010

NORTH HAMPTON Community Newsletter

SPONSORED BY: Friends of the Library, North Hampton Public Library,
North Hampton School Board and the Town of North Hampton

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Next Deadline

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Newsletter Contacts

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North Hampton Select Board News

Happy New Year to everyone, and we hope that you all had a very happy Holiday season. With the New Year beginning, it is also time for the Town to prepare for Town Meeting. However, this year there will be a significant change from years past. At the March 2009 Town Meeting, the voters approved a measure to move the date of the annual meeting from March to May. The Select Board proposed this change for a number of reasons. First, it will allow the Select Board and Municipal Budget Committee to have better information when it comes to budgeting for the next year. In the past, the Select Board would begin budgeting for the next fiscal year in August, one month after the current fiscal year begin. This would not allow the Select Board and Department Heads to have the most accurate information about actual expenditures and revenues. With the meeting in May, we will have six months of figures to work with, and it should help us budget better.

Secondly, we heard from a number of people who travel during the winter months that would like to participate in the Town Meeting, but cannot. By moving the meeting to May, we hope we will have more people attend.

Finally, with the State of New Hampshire providing some revenues to the Town, a later Town Meeting will allow the Town to better prepare if there are any changes in these revenues.

With this in mind, the following is the new schedule for Town Meeting starting in 2010.

This is only the Town portion, not the Schools.

OCTOBER 2009: Department Heads Begin Budget

NOVEMBER 2009: Department Heads Submit Budget to Town Administrator

NOVEMBER 2009: Town Administrator and Departments Compile Budgets

DECEMBER 2009: Select Board Begin Budget Review

EARLY JANUARY 2010: Select Board Approves Budget for
Municipal Budget Committee Review

JANUARY -FEBRUARY 2010: Municipal Budget Committee
Begin Review of Budget

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010: Petitioned Warrant Articles Due

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010: Municipal Budget Committee
Budget Public Hearing

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010: Warrant Must be Posted

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010: Deliberative Session

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010: Town Reports Published

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010: Town Voting Day

With all of these changes, this does not mean that you will not be going to the polls in March. There will be two election dates. The North Hampton School District Deliberative Session will be February 2, 2009 at the North Hampton School and the Voting Day will be March 9. ...continued on page 2

Recycling Center Information

The Recycling Committee would like to thank those residents and businesses that used the Town's Recycling Center in 2009. We look forward to seeing you in 2010.

By recycling, your impact on the environment has been beneficial.

The Recycling Center is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is located on Cherry Road.

UPCOMING RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

April 3rd - Weather permitting, the Brush and Compost opens for the season.

Early May - Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Hampton.

Mid-May - Bulky Item Collection at the Recycling Center.

For additional information, call the Recycling Center (964-9825) or the Dept. of Public Works (964-6442).

A Conversation about the Library

Why do Libraries exist? What is the Library's purpose? What does our Library mean to you? What type of community do we want to create? Is it time for a Library that adequately serves our current community's population?

The library is a measurement of a community's values, priorities and confidence in its residents' future. It is the institution that celebrates and preserves our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners – informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched. It is the institution that fosters the preservation of our heritage through community education and awareness of historical records, documents and artifacts; and it provides informational and cultural programming for all age groups. It's a place that encourages everyone to expand their cognitive skills, to have fun while learning, asks questions, find answers; explore interests and to help families evolve. It is a meeting place for residents, civic groups and social organizations.

Our library is an invaluable community resource. Housing an array of the world's stories, ideas and information, it contributes to a vibrant environment with free and open access to an abundant collection of books and other media in various formats for reading, listening, viewing, researching and studying. It is the place where everyone, regardless of their age group, is welcome. Our Library provides citizens ongoing opportunities to learn and access information to better one's self and to understand one's government and public institutions.

The Library is the "heart" of our community. It is a protector of our right to the free access of information and of our privacy.

Effective stewardship requires us to be future focused, looking beyond where we are today and anticipating the future. But to move forward with acuity, we must incorporate past history to understand where we are today to aid us in moving securely into the future. Below we provide an up to date history of the Library and Town's progress towards a "Municipal Center" with excerpts from former Library Trustee, Linda Hillier's 2004 historical research.

1973: Our current Library was built and was projected to fill a 20-year need.

1991: Current police station was completed; old police station attached to Town Hall demolished

2001: Library Building Consultant conducts Library Needs Assessment and advises the Trustees that the library

North Hampton Select Board News *continued from page 1*

The Select Board has been very busy these past few months. Earlier this fall, the Select Board requested proposals to assist the Town in designing the Town Campus. For many years, the Town has been examining the space needs of its various departments. It is the intention of the Select Board to use this study to determine what the Town can do to provide all of its departments the space they will need for the coming years. The Select Board appointed a special committee to narrow down the 19 proposals to three and we will begin to interview those firms shortly.

This past year, the Town Administrator proposed to the Select Board an entirely new Personnel Policy for the employees of the Town. After much review, the Board implemented the Town's first comprehensive Personnel Policy in November. This is another example of modernizing the Town's internal procedures to improve the operation of the Town government.

The Town lost a long time dedicated employee this past fall. Police Lieutenant John Scippa left the North Hampton Police Department to become the Chief of Police in Stratham. We wish him the best of luck in his new position.

~ Craig Salomon, Chair, Michael Coutu, Jon Rineman

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A Conversation About the Library *continued from page 2*

is 2,486 sq. ft. too small to meet our population needs and advises an overall 12,000 sq. ft. expansion with parking for at least 30 vehicles.

2001: Per warrant articles XVIII and XIX the Town hires an Architect to provide handicap access to office space above the police station. The Architect, Dennis Mires presented a Municipal Complex Plan to Town officials and the public which outlined a six-year plan to:

- A. Renovate town offices for temporary use (Completed in 2002)
- B. Construct a new public works facility (Completed in 2008)
- C. Acquire land (Purchased per 2004 warrant article)
- D. Construct a new 11,500 sq. ft. library and parking shared by town offices
- E. Renovate existing library to consolidate and house town offices (projected need for 5,000 sq. ft.)
- F. Expand the current safety complex

2002: Per warrant article XX, \$140,000 was raised to purchase an elevator to make the office space above the police station compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

Selectmen appointed the Municipal Complex Committee to review Dennis Mires' six year plan. The committee recommended that the Town purchase the land and building at 239 Atlantic Ave. for expansion purposes.

2004: Per Citizens' Petitioned warrant article XXVII, \$550,000 is raised and appropriated to acquire the land adjacent to the library

June Long Range Planning Committee appoints a Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee (MFAC)

Nov MFAC submits their report to the Planning Board and the Select Board

2005: Warrant Article XIX, Citizens' petition passes to place \$50,000 in a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of planning and constructing a new or expanded Library. This amount was matched with Library investment funds.

2006: Warrant Article XVII passes to place another \$50,000 in the Library's Capital Reserve Building Fund with a matching amount from the Library's investments.

2007: Warrant Article XX passes to place another \$50,000 in the Library's Capital Reserve Building Fund with a matching amount from the Library's investments.

2008: Library Building Consultant updates the 2001 Library Needs Assessment. Trustees are advised that to meet the needs of a population of 5,500 people for the next 20+ years, 14,200 gross square feet with seating for 60 patrons, space for up to 20 computers, a separate and distinct children's space, a multipurpose room for 80 to serve for both children and adult programming, a quiet study space, space for tutoring, and at least 35 parking spaces with two additional handicapped spaces.

2008 & 2009: Library Trustees request that the Select Board meet with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Library Trustees to go over their needs assessments, decide on actual needs and then prioritize them to move on with the Town Complex planning.

2009: Select Board approves a Request for Architect Proposals for a Town Complex to ascertain and prioritize Town Building needs and then establishes a committee to review those proposals and to make recommendations to them for a final selection.

2009: Library Trustees submit a warrant article for \$50,000 for the Library Building Capital Reserve Fund which will be matched with Library invested funds.

- North Hampton Public Library Trustees, Emily Creighton, Chair, Peter J. Parker, Alison Robie

North Hampton Women's Club

- The North Hampton Woman's Club meetings start at 1:00 pm with the programs starting at 2:00 pm.
- Meetings are held at the North Hampton United Church of Christ.
- The February 3rd program will be Games We Think Will Be Fun - A good way to spend a winter afternoon.
- The March 3rd program will feature Jamie Colen Director of Fuller Gardens - Getting us to think spring.
- The April 7th program will be guest speaker Sue Engle discussing Living Longer with Good Nutrition.
- For more information please call Jean Pepple 964-1179

Do You Know What the Students are Doing in Your Community's School?...Come Peek in the Windows and See!



are reading Fairy Tales that take place in a forest setting and building dioramas of the forest into which various favorite fairy tale characters have taken up residence or....are perhaps hiding! Look, see the 3 Bears house beside that big tree....and I think I see the fluffy tail of the BBW (Big Bad Wolf) sticking out of those bushes....who is going to warn the little pigs??? Now here is a newsflash....it is rumored that during the last week of December....the Gingerbread Man is going to escape the Kindergarten Rooms. Watch for the wanted posters around school!

Right next to Kindergarten, we can peer down into the Art Studio. Students are working with all sorts of media – clay, print-making, comic sketches, watercolors – everyone's project is different...Why? Because the students bring their ideas into the studio and execute them while experimenting with media and exploring techniques. Total investment here!

Now come with me...all of these windows look into first grade classrooms. Wait...Doesn't that corner look like Egypt?...and over there is Italy....I think I see the Netherlands....you are seeing costumes and food from Greece? Ahhhh, I remember now! The First Grade students are on a trip around the world in the month of December. They boarded the plane on December 3, and will fly from country to country to learn about each place from the people who live there. What a wonderful way to learn about the diversity of the world and become respectful of our differences!

The gym has no windows...but if we pull open this door just a bit, we can see a sliver of what is going on...the younger students are playing floor hockey and the older students are engaged in volleyball, basketball...and general fitness exercises. Everyone is so engaged and so active even though it is a cold day!

I thought this was the Grade 2 wing...but I'm seeing little people in lab coats, rushing about carrying books and microscopes....what is going on? Oh, look at this poster...it is a call for Inventors! Second grade students have been reading biographies about inventors and now they have the opportunity to really be one – really! – Their task is to create a brand new invention that really works or improve upon a model that already exists. We may have the next Thomas Edison or Milton Hershey right inside these walls!

Mosey along the wall and the next set of windows opens on to some of the grade 3 classrooms. Can you see some of the children using their computers to study various maps of North Hampton neighborhoods and editing photos they have taken? Look over there, some students are interviewing people we know...people right from this town! I wonder what this is all about? Can you read what is on the chalkboard?...It says "The Seven Wonders of North Hampton!"...and then there is the start of a list of selection criteria! We shall have to revisit Third Grade when they have finished this project!

Shhh...tiptoe close ...Pre-school is having circle time right now. The children and adults are singing a song and doing some movements to the music. Their faces are happy and their voices are reasonably on key! As the music stops, everyone settles on the rug for a group story, practicing listening, questioning, and visualizing skills. After circle time, the children will disperse into choice activities where teachers facilitate the development of appropriate social interaction within the small groups – water play, block building, playing farm, playing restaurant..."let us in...we want to play with you!"

Bend down everyone and look into the Kindergarten windows now...students

...continued on page 5



...Come Peek in the Windows and See! *continued from page 4*

Ok, everybody...climb up on your ladders...we need to check out what is going on in the 4th grade classrooms on the second floor and lets see...over there is a chart listing some big words – transpiration, evaporation, condensation, precipitation ...what could they be studying...gasp...it is raining inside their room! Look there are clouds and it is raining...very gently...but very wet! Look at that giant drop emerging from the cloud...its Wally the water droplet! He drops to the floor and halts the rain...beginning to teach the students about the water cycle...explaining those big words we saw on the chart. As he talks...the children begin sketching and if we look a bit closer, we can see that they are creating comics to teach about the water cycle! What a fun way to learn!

While we are up here...climb on the roof and lean your heads over toward the skylight. They look down into the Media/Library Center. In one section of this space we have a 3rd grade Reader's Theatre performing for a 2nd grade audience. In another section, we have 7th graders learning about how to use an online tool to assist with the proper formatting of a bibliography for their current Oratorical research. And, of course, as in any school library, there is the line of students checking out books!

Ladders down...lets run into the back courtyard and sneak a peek into the music rooms! There are students playing music with real instruments, and students composing and playing music with computers, Think...Trans-Siberian Orchestra, in the future! For now, we can enjoy the sounds of students rehearsing for their upcoming choral and band concerts...Hope you have a chance to attend!

Put ladders up...Ok...we are poised to sneak a peek into Fifth Grade – those students look busy with graph paper, rulers and protractors and if we look closer we can see that they are constructing their blueprints for their upcoming Sugar Cube Houses – an annual event this time of year. They will be designing their house, calculating perimeter and area to approximate their materials. They will have to calculate the actual materials cost as they build the houses and learn to write checks to pay for the sugar cubes, M&Ms, peppermint sticks, NECCO Wafers...etc. Hang on to your checkbooks! After speaking with area realtors about how to sell a house, they will be writing persuasive essays to entice their buyers! Anyone in the market for a 96 square inch house with Hershey bar front doors?

Ladders down and back around the side that faces our school garden! Ladders up and here we are face to face with a rather large collection of plants! I see 15" high tomatoes, bean plants crawling up strings, basil, lettuce and some other greenery that might or might not be edible! Let us get a better look - ahhh it is a Hydroponics System – look there is the Grow Light and there is the lava rock to stabilize the roots. Students are busy measuring plants, adding nutrients, drawing interesting observations, and designing new experiments in their science journals. Imagine fresh vegetables all year round....and the garden is waist high for picking!

If we can just hop our ladders along a bit...we come to windows that look into 7th and 8th grade classrooms. Although these grades are active in all sorts of studies in their respective classes, the students of both grades are currently focused on crafting their documents for Oratoricals. Brainstorm, research, organize, draft, conference, revise, conference, practice, practice, practice!...Oratoricals is a full time job for these students! We know the North Hampton community is familiar and fond of this annual tradition of the speech contest. Be sure to attend this year's event on Thursday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Winnacunnet High School.

So down the ladders we go...our classroom sneak peeks over for today. Hopefully this unusual visit provided you with a bit of insight into the daily life of your school. Come back sometime soon...rest assured you can use the front door for your next visit!

~ Jan Scipione, Assistant Principal,
North Hampton School



Cub Scouts Pack 162 News

Pack 162 would like to thank our North Hampton friends and neighbors for supporting us in our popcorn fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who purchased popcorn at Joe's Meat Shoppe, the Old Salt Restaurant and Shaw's and to everyone who welcomed the scouts to their door! This is the only fundraiser that the North Hampton Cub Scouts participate in and your support helps our scouts participate in fun and educational events throughout the year! Your kindness is a big support to the boys as well and they loved meeting so many community members who were scouts themselves.

Thanks also to everyone who participated in the "Scouting for Food" food drive! Boy Scouts of America is celebrating its 100th year and our cub scouts will be celebrating with a birthday banquet in February!

We're excited that our scout family has been growing this year! We have a fun and friendly group of families in Pack 162! If your family would like to see what scouting is all about, we'd love to have you join us at a Pack Meeting!



Our January meeting is scheduled for January 20th at 6:45pm in the North Hampton School Cafeteria. For more information, please contact our Cub Master, Peter Philbrook at pepnvak@comcast.net. Scholarships are available.

North Hampton Time-Line on the Web

The North Hampton Heritage Commission has developed a time-line, listing interesting facts chronologically about North Hampton along side county, state, national and world events.

"The Heritage Commission has been working on this project for almost two years. We will update the time-line on the town website about every six months, as we continue our research," said Jennifer Landman, chair of the commission. "It can be found on the Heritage Commission page at http://www.northhampton-nh.gov/Public_Documents/NorthHamptonNH_BComm/Heritage."

From the Office of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office is in the process of collecting E-Mail addresses so in the future we can send reminders to your In Box instead of using the USPS. The car renewal reminders & dog license reminders are examples of what we would be sending. If you would like to get your reminders this way please send your E-mail address to sbuchanan@northhampton-nh.gov. This will cut the cost of mailing the reminders.

Did you know you can register your vehicles on line? You simply go to the Town Clerk's page of the town's web site and use the link called E-Reg.

One last thing is the property tax info is available on line by going to nhtaxkiosk.com. This is useful to property owners, realtors, tax service companies and banks. There is also a link thru the town's web site.

~ Susan M Buchanan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Boy Scout Troop 162 News

North Hampton Boy Scout Troop 162 has enjoyed a busy fall full of activities and projects. Troop members participated in the District Camporee, a two night camping trip at Fort Stark in New Castle, with a day-long hike along the historic Gunpowder Trail. Scouts also traveled to NYC to visit the Intrepid battleship as well as many other city attractions, commuting from their campsite in CT. The troop members participated in the Scouting for Food canned food collection, and would like to thank the community for its participation. The troop's major fundraiser, wreath sales, was also a huge success, and the proceeds enable the boys and the troop to fund activities, summer camp, advancements and awards. The troop is currently preparing for a winter camping trip as well as designing and building a sled for the District Klondike Derby and camp out coming up in February. Two new scouts were welcomed into the troop this fall, and the troop extends an open invitation to all boys, ages 6th grade to 18 years old, to join (no prior scouting experience is necessary). For more information please contact Scoutmaster Dick Tharp at 964-8194.

Nathan Vincent, son of Jean and Moe Vincent, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in Boy Scouts. Congratulations to Nathan for his hard work in earning the Eagle Scout rank.



North Hampton Public Library News

Bring your book or newspaper and relax with a cup of coffee from our new coffee machine and enjoy the peace and quiet of the library in our recently refurnished New Hampshire room. The Library now has a quiet reading room that doubles as the old familiar New Hampshire Room, courtesy of The Friends of the Library, who have generously supplied two new comfortable reading chairs, a table lamp, two study tables that double as a conference table, and new stacking chairs for the tables. We want to thank the Friends for this beautiful "new" space and for all the support they give the library and community.

Are you culturally depleted? Come to the library Wednesdays at 1:00 for our weekly video series. Past series have included "Dutch Masters: The Age of Rembrandt," "Great Masters: Gustav Mahler, his life and music," and "Broadway Musicals." These series can also be checked out at the library to be viewed at home.

Enjoy listening to books? The library has two MP3 players for downloading audio books from the New Hampshire State Library at <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/services/librarians/services.html> Click on the links to the site and take the guided tour to learn how to download books. Call the library for more information.

During the month of March the library will be participating in "The Big Read: To Kill a Mockingbird," sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. All over the state, libraries will be hosting programs and events revolving around reading Harper Lee's classic "To Kill a Mockingbird." Copies of the book will be available to pick up at the library and a book discussion will be held Weds. March 10th at 7:00 p.m. for all who would like to attend. The film will also be shown at the library Weds. March 17th at 6:30 p.m. A performance of "Atticus" by actor Richard Clark is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd at the earlier time of 4:00 p.m. to encourage students to attend. This program will be free and open to the public.

Just a reminder that the Genealogy Club is open to anyone interested in family history. We meet the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the library. January 26th the Registrar of Deeds of Middlesex County, Massachusetts will speak to us about land records and real estate documents.

The Sunset Book Club meets once a month on a Wednesday evening to discuss books selected from the program "What is NH Reading?" and the State Library "Reads-to-Go" programs. Call the library or visit our web site for details.

- Susan Grant, Library Director

North Hampton Girl Scouts

The North Hampton Girl Scouts are off to a great start this year with a record number of girls participating in scouting. Our numbers would not be possible were it not for such a large group of volunteer leaders and service unit participants. A very big shout-out to those veteran participants and a big thanks to all of the many new moms who stepped up to ensure all interested girls were able to participate in scouting this year.

We kicked off the year with a birthday celebration for our founder Juliette Low. In her honor all of the troops participated in a swim party and canned food drive. A mini-van full of donated food was delivered to Hobbs House a food pantry servicing Hampton and North Hampton.

In December all troops participated in assembling holiday gift baskets for homebound patients of the Seacoast Visiting Nurses Association. This marks the 3rd year in a row North Hampton Girl Scouts have participated in what has become a rewarding holiday tradition.

These community service activities are only part of the many ways the scouts are active within their individual troops. This year all of the troops will be engaged in activities with a focus on caring for our environment. It's truly wonderful to see so many young girls and women working to the greater good of the community.

The article would not be complete if it did not mention COOKIES! Cookie sales begin January 1st. Please do support local scouts by purchasing some delicious Girl Scout cookies. The girls always use a portion of the money earned through cookies to support a local charity. Scouting is a wonderful way to engage the girls in civic-minded activities while teaching them how to become active members of their community.

If you would like more information about how you can support North Hampton Girl Scouts, please contact Amanda Peterson at apeterson1417@gmail.com or 964-5821. Thank you!

Planning Board Update: 10 December 2009

Sound planning by duly elected town officials who respect the will of the electorate is especially important during these challenging economic times. Sound master planning, zoning ordinances, site plan regulations, and subdivision regulations protect the environment, help manage the tax rate, and promote sustainable growth.

During the past five years, to fulfill the will of the electorate, the North Hampton Planning Board has been guided by three principles set forth in the Town's Vision Statement:

- Preserve the rural character and heritage of North Hampton.
- Spend wisely for municipal services and facilities.
- Strengthen community by improving coordination and communication among town departments and between the Town departments and residents.

Now, this vision faces many serious land-use and planning challenges. Among the most important relates to workforce housing. In 2008 the State of New Hampshire adopted a statute mandating that all New Hampshire towns must provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for workforce housing. Prior to the adoption of this workforce housing legislation, then Select Board members Emily Creighton and Mike Coutu voted affirmatively to support the Planning Board's position that the proposed legislation had severe shortcomings and that it was not written in a manner that would protect our town's natural resources, including our invaluable wetlands and aquifers.

In April 2008 Phil Wilson and Mike Coutu testified before the House Municipal and County Government Committee and the Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee to try to improve the legislation and address the bill's flaws. Among these flaws: The bill failed to define what constitutes a municipality's "fair share" of workforce housing. The legislation failed to specify the number of units in a workforce-housing proposal that must be dedicated to affordable workforce housing, and it provided no mechanism to ensure that such housing will remain affordable for a specific period or the indefinite future.

As a result of this legislation towns throughout New Hampshire now face problems associated with dense development without having means to provide added infrastructure, education, and administrative costs that will inevitably result from the new law. Authors and proponents of the bill had incorrectly stated that the workforce housing law would have no fiscal impact on towns.

In late 2008 the Planning Board developed an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance to comply with the statute. Long Range Planning Committee members Barbara Kohl and Tom McManus, along with Chair Phil Wilson, crafted this amendment to North Hampton's Zoning Ordinance that was adopted at Town Meeting in March 2009. Their goal was to comply with the law, to locate potential workforce housing where it was supportable in Town, and to protect North Hampton's natural resources.

North Hampton was one of the first Seacoast towns to create zoning districts where work-force housing developments reasonably and realistically could be developed – areas that are not located on or near wetlands or conservation land, but that are on land that offers adequate infrastructure to support denser development. As the law requires, land available for workforce housing comprises greater than 50 percent of land zoned for residential use.

The Planning Board has not yet deliberated on an application under the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, but anticipates one or more in the very near future.

As Commissioners on the Rockingham Planning Commission, Shep Kroner, Phil Wilson, and Alternate Barbara Kohl have also been working with fellow Commissioners to address the following long-range planning issues for the region:

- Innovative Land Use Controls for Sustainable Development
- Regional Land Conservation Plans for Coastal Watersheds
- Route 1 Corridor Study
- Planning Board Circuit Rider Program
- Energy Planning

The Planning Board has also been grateful for the helpful advice of the Conservation Commission on several applications this year that have involved important and environmentally sensitive areas of the Town, including Mill Pond and the salt marsh at Bass Beach.

The Board also welcomes Brian Groth as the new Circuit Rider from the Rockingham Planning Commission. Members of the Planning Board are: Dr. Joseph Arena Jr.; Mike Coutu, Select Board Representative; Barbara Kohl, Tom McManus, Laurel Pohl, David McGilvary, Alternate Member; Vince Vettraino, Alternate Member; Shep Kroner, Vice Chair; Phil Wilson, Chair.

~ Respectfully Submitted, Phil Wilson, Chair



News from the Children's Room at the North Hampton Public Library

Winter Greetings to all. Please stop by the library soon for great books, books on CD, DVD's and Board Games for children and families. Many programs are ongoing and there are always new ones planned or in the works. Stop by or visit the Library's web site at <http://nhplib.org> for more information. You can also become a fan of NHPL on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Calling All Toddlers and Young Preschoolers!

Two's Time Story Hour is offered on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. the North Hampton Public Library for children ages 18 months to 36 months. Join experienced educator and Mother of three, Stacy Whittier ("Ms. Stacy") for stories, and activities to support and encourage early literacy and learning. Call, email, or stop by the library to sign up and join the fun: 964-6326 or youthlib@nhplib.org. The Winter session of "Two's Time" begins January 12.



"Ms Stacy" shares a story at Two's Time

STORY TIME FOR AGES 3-6

For Children ages 3-6, Wednesday Story Time begins Wednesday January 13 and meets from 10:15 – 10:45. Registration is required but drop-ins are always welcome. Just call to let us know you are coming.

PAJAMA STORY TIME FOR AGES 2 AND UP

Meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.. The Winter dates are 1/4, 2/1, and 3/1. No sign up is required. Wear your favorite pajamas and join the fun.



Pre school children enjoyed the squash soup at a soup-themed Story Time

CRAFTY KIDS

Crafts for ages Kindergarten and up. Please call or email to sign up.

Wednesday, January 13 4:00 – 4:40

Wednesday, February 10 4:00 – 4:40

Wednesday, March 24 4:00 -4:40

BOOK BUNCH

Book Bunch Stories and Activities will meet on Saturdays during the winter. For ages 4 and up. The programs will be 45 minutes to 1 hour long. Please call or email to sign up.

Saturday, January 16 at 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 13 11:00 a.m.

YOUNG READERS REVIEW

Have you read a great book (or not so great book) recently? Rate and Share about your opinions by filling in a review sheet at the Library. Look for the blue box in the chapter book section. You can also submit your reviews via email. We will do a raffle each month of the reviews submitted for a prize.

Pizza and Pages

Book Discussion Group for grades 5-8 featuring Pizza, books, discussion and activities. Group members vote for the book selections. Call or email to add your name to the rooster for reminders about upcoming meetings. New members are always welcome. Winter meeting dates are:

Monday, January 11 at 7:00 – 7:45 January Book: "The Teacher's Funeral" by Richard Peck

Monday, February 8 at 7:00 -7:45 February Book: TBA.

Monday, March 8 at 7:00 – 7:45 March Book: chosen at the February meeting.

~ See you soon at the Library! Lorreen M. Keating, Youth Services Librarian, Assistant Library Director

North Hampton Water Commission News

The North Hampton Water Commission continues to be engaged in the ongoing discussions at the NH Public Utilities Commission that are aimed at hammering out the details relating to Aquarion Water Company's proposed Water Conservation and Infrastructure Adjustment (WICA) projects. These WICA projects aim to replace aging water mains, hydrants and meters and to reduce the amount of water losses from leaks, thereby conserving water and reducing operating costs. Aquarion has proposed a number of water main replacement projects over the next several years, including the proposed 2010 replacement of the water main on Atlantic Avenue between Mill Road and Woodland Road in North Hampton. In 2011, the Atlantic Avenue water main between Maple Road and Woodland Avenue is proposed for replacement. This is the first time that a Rate Order from the NH PUC has allowed the host municipalities to have input into prioritizing these types of infrastructure projects.

The Commissioners and the Selectmen see the opportunity to have input into prioritizing these water main replacement projects as a way to reduce the costs of road paving and maintenance. The idea is for the Town to work with Aquarion so that the disturbance and repaving of the road is done in coordination with the Town's cycle for roadway re-paving. North Hampton taxpayers will benefit by having Aquarion contribute to the cost of repaving a stretch of road that was slated to be repaved by the Town.

Henry Fuller, Co-Chair, Bob Landman, Co-Chair, Richard Bettcher, Timothy Harned

Conservation Commission Update

The year 2009 was a productive one for conservation efforts in North Hampton. It was also a year of setbacks, particularly in protecting wetlands and buffer areas. Below are some of the key efforts of the Conservation Commission.

Little River Water Quality

As mentioned in previous newsletters, NH DES water sampling tests indicated that areas in the Little River watershed exhibited relatively high levels of e-coli bacteria, likely from failed septic systems from residential homes in or near the wetland buffers. In July, the DES and US EPA conducted a red dye test to identify how the outflow of the river could impact water quality at North Hampton Beach. The red dye test indicated that the river outflow was very slow to make its way into the ocean and tended to remain along the shore near the beach. Levels of e-coli in the beach were at of concern to the DES. Water sample tests in October along the Little River watershed showed reduced levels of e-coli from previously, which further suggested that sources of contamination in the beach area may have been possible septic failures from homes close to the beach. The EPA and DES have targeted a more extensive water testing and enforcement program in the beach area for 2010 to pinpoint the contamination sources, with further plans to implement corrective actions.

Dalton Town Forest

Employing professional forest management practices, the Commission initiated the Town Forest's first logging harvest in September and October. The purpose of the harvest was to implement the management plan by conducting selective thinning of standing mature overgrowth trees to enhance the health of the remaining standing trees. The result of the harvest was the removal and sale of over 52,000 board feet of saw logs, with net revenue to the Town Forest of about \$6,500.

In addition, an upgraded entrance to the forest was completed as well as a small clearing for stockpiling logs for out-loading. The Commission approved the use of engraved bronze signs to be mounted on granite posts that were salvaged from demolition of the Town owned house next to the library.

Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, Phase II

In the Fall of 2008, the Rockingham County Conservation District, with the supporting efforts of the Conservation Commission, was awarded a DES/ US EPA grant to restore the natural tidal flow into areas previously impeded in the upper northwest portion of the marsh. Permitting for the project began in late 2008 and the project was approved later in the year. Excavation of channels to direct tidal flow in the marsh was initiated in December. With the completion of this project, a significant part of the natural habitat of the marsh will be restored, thereby reducing mosquito population, mitigating the growth of invasive plants and producing improved habitat for fish feeding and spawning.

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Conservation Commission Update *continued from page 10*

Invasive Plants Control in the Little River Salt Marsh

In the summer, the NH Audubon, the steward of a major portion of the Little River Salt Marsh, completed a project to remove phragmites, a known invasive plant, from the marsh. The result is the mitigation of invasive plants into other parts of the marsh.

North Hampton Forever

In May, the project transaction closing for a conservation easement with John and Cynthia Jenkins, at 93 Exeter Road, was completed to preserve 24.8 acres of agricultural upland. This project was funded through a combination of a grant for \$250,175 from the Federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program and \$200,000 from the Town's Conservation bond note funds.

Wetlands and Wetlands Buffer Protection

The year 2009 also included continuing encroachment into wetlands and wetlands buffers primarily from housing development within the wetlands buffers. Several occurrences were in locations bordering environmentally sensitive wetlands. In addition, continuing incidents of excavation and filling of wetlands as well as dumping into wetlands were reported, suggesting that increased enforcement of wetlands protection regulations is needed.

The Commission thanks John Hubbard and his staff for Town Forest entrance construction and signage assistance, Stan Knowles for overseeing the forest harvest, John and Cynthia Jenkins for their patience and cooperation through the Federal grant process and Kendall Chevalier for supplying surplus gravel for the Town Forest. In addition, the Conservation Commission thanks the residents of North Hampton for their continued public support and interest in protecting the Town's valuable water resources and natural habitat.

- Chris Ganotis, Chairman

North Hampton Forever Update

During 2009 the North Hampton *forever* Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission completed work required to close out two federal grants – totaling \$1.65 million – that were awarded to North Hampton to protect land in perpetuity. These funds were used to leverage North Hampton *forever* bond funds in the Subcommittee's efforts to acquire land for conservation purposes.

The first award was successfully closed out on 8 September 2009. A \$1.4 million award from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program ("CELCP") under the auspices of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"), the Town received this award in September 2006. Funds were disbursed in January 2007 to acquire over 84 acres of mixed hardwood and pine forest in the headwaters of the Winnicut and Little Rivers.

Because values of three prior acquisitions through the North Hampton *forever* program were used to meet the CELCP award's dollar-for-dollar matching requirement, none of the Town's bond appropriation was expended for this 84-acres acquisition. The three prior acquisitions included the value of the Cahill donation of a conservation easement on 51 acres in December 2003, the value of the two smaller lots of the three-lots D'Urso acquisition in December 2003, and the value of the Treat acquisition of 103 acres in February 2004.

The process of meeting all CELCP "Special Award Conditions" to close out this grant was long, sometimes frustrating and very convoluted. Yet, the Subcommittee's persistence not only succeeded, but also increased benefits of this project to the Town. CELCP required that all properties used to meet the matching condition be reappraised to meet government criteria known as "yellow book" standards.

In each case the "yellow book" appraisal increased the value of the property submitted for matching purposes: The Cahill donation, originally valued at \$767,000, was finally appraised at \$1,025,000. The three D'Urso lots, acquired for \$200,000, were finally appraised at \$330,000. Last, the Treat property, acquired for \$300,000, was finally appraised for \$370,000.

Because the values of the Cahill donation and Treat acquisition increased to amounts well above the prices the Subcommittee had negotiated to purchase them, it was not necessary to use the value of the largest of the three D'Urso lots to meet the CELCP matching requirement. Consequently, this lot has been preserved for

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North Hampton Forever Update *continued from page 11*

possible use as a community garden that would not have been permitted under CELCP restrictions.

The second award was closed out on 20 July 2009, when \$250,175 from an award from the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program ("FRPP") under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") were remitted to the Town. This award was used to acquire an easement on 25 acres of farmland owned by the Jenkins family on Exeter Road.

The process of meeting the FRPP requirements to close out this award was as long, frustrating, and convoluted as the process for the CELCP award. Yet, as with the CELCP award, the persistence of the Subcommittee yielded both success and increased benefits for the Town.

Like CELCP, the FRPP required a "yellow book" standard appraisal and, moreover, required multiple revisions and resubmissions of appraisal materials. At the end of the process, the appraised value of the easement (\$525,000) was higher than the purchase price (\$450,000) negotiated by the Subcommittee. Therefore, the share of the total cost of the acquisition borne by the FRPP was higher than anticipated, and the share borne by the Town was lower than anticipated. The resulting savings to North Hampton *forever* bond funds was approximately \$35,000.

The Subcommittee is grateful to all the property owners, especially the Cahill and the Jenkins families, for the generous contributions they have made to help protect the rural New England character and heritage of North Hampton. Without permanently protected open space – forests, meadows and pastures, wetlands, and farmland – the Town cannot preserve its traditional rural "look and feel," and the benefits of open space – environmental, aesthetic, recreational, and educational – would be irrecoverable.

Permanently protecting land for conservation purposes also has fiscal benefits for the Town. Land that is not developed for residential use does not require services from the Town and therefore does not increase the tax burden on Town residents. Additional residences in Town require roads that have to be maintained, protection by the fire and police departments, and seats for pupils in schools. New residential developments almost always require more in services than they generate in tax revenues, as the North Hampton *forever* Subcommittee found in its analysis during work on the Warrant Article for the bond authorization at Town Meeting in 2001. For example: In order to provide tax revenues to support one student in school, a property must be assessed at approximately \$1,000,000.

Members of the Subcommittee are: Mike Coutu (Selectmen's Representative, 2008), Robert Field (2000-present), Chris Ganotis (Treasurer, 2000-present), Tim Harned (Co-Chair, 2000-present), Stanley Knowles (2006-present), Shep Kroner (Secretary, 2004-present), Peter Simmons (2006-present), Dick Wollmar (2000-present), and Phil Wilson (Co-Chair, 2000-present). Ms. Michele Peckham, Esq., serves as legal counsel for the Subcommittee.

~ Submitted by Phil Wilson, Co-Chair

Energy Committee News

About 75 people attended the International Day of Climate Awareness Celebration sponsored by the energy committee. Dick Ray and the Spectras played great songs, many weather related, and sponsored by Jo Ann Lamprey. Amanda Bacon spoke about new sustainable energy solutions available now at Lampreys. Pastor Michelle welcomed everyone on behalf the United Church of Christ in North Hampton noting that the UCC world wide was encouraging its members to care and preserve our earth as part of our responsibility as stewards of the earth. Mary Lou Wollmar thanked the cub scouts, Laurie's famous NY Dogs, Pastor Michelle and members of the UCC Church for sheltering the event on a rainy Saturday. The Cub Scouts and other young people rang the bells 350 times representing what most scientists think to be a safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. (We are now at 390).

At this writing there is some controversy as to how the climate is changing. One thing is certain, our needs for energy are with us, and sustainable energy saves the earth and our dollars. Please call any member of our committee (on the town website), if you need help in making your own home more efficient. The Public service of New Hampshire also will provide energy audits, as well as the Home Depot.

New members are always welcome and we will be setting new goals for the coming year.

~ Submitted by Mary Lou Wollmar, Chair, Energy Committee

The Friends of Centennial Hall

The Friends of Centennial Hall and our Residents share in the vision that the Hall is an important historical landmark and the perfect host for community arts education and entertainment. Whether you want to learn a new instrument, make music, produce art or simply get together playing Bridge with friends, Centennial Hall is a place for you.

Seacoast Academy of Music (SAM)

More information available by calling 964-3660 or visiting our website, www.seacoastacademyofmusic.org.

Mr. Guth's Music Studio

Gene "Mr." Guth has been teaching instrumental music professionally for over nineteen years. He currently teaches students of all ages and experience levels right at his Centennial Hall studio in North Hampton, NH. He has also written his own teaching method for each of the instruments he utilizes in his lessons: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drums, percussion, piano, guitar, and bass. For more information, Contact Gene at geneguth@earthlink.net

Brush and Palette - Art Classes

Please check our website www.brushandpalet.com or email us at classes@brushandpalet.com for information or give us a call at (603) 778-0685.

American Red Cross

The Great Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross offers nursing assistant programs Information can be found on our website www.greatbayredcross.org,

Bridge Lessons and Supervised Play

The North Hampton Bridge Club offers two ways to learn and enjoy duplicate bridge. Lessons are presented at noon on Mondays, followed by supervised duplicate play. Open duplicate play is held at noon on Thursdays. All sessions are \$3.00. For more information, call Dave Pepple at (603) 964-1179 or email nhbridge@Comcast.net or go to www.nhbridge.org

Theatre in the AIR at Centennial Hall

This year Centennial Hall is hosting weekly workshops for "Theatre in the AIR," a free after school theatre program for local teenage girls created by Arts in Reach.

The program is open to teenage girls in the Rockingham County and runs every Tuesday at Centennial Hall from 4:00-5:30pm. Workshops are run by professional theatre artists Raina Ames (UNH Director of Theatre Education) and Shannon Marshall (Inside Broadway, NYC teaching artist). The program is funded through private grants as well as personal and corporate donations from local patrons. Interested donors or participants contact Shannon Marshall at 603-433-4ART or by visiting the AIR website at www.airnh.org.

~ Marcy McCann, The Friends of Centennial Hall

Friends of the North Hampton Public Library

The Friends of the Library's Annual Membership Drive is once again underway and continues into 2010. Through your generous contributions, the Friends have been able to support our library programs, provide cultural opportunities for our community as well as purchase furniture and equipment. We hope you will keep our organization in mind as you consider donating this year. Remember, "The Friends" is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, and all contributions are tax deductible.

This year, thanks to your help, we were able to support events such as The Genealogy Workshop, Sulgrave Manor Program, The Summer Teen Reading Program as well as purchase several passes to area museums and The Fuller Gardens.

We are also very proud to announce that your contributions enabled us to refurbish the New Hampshire Room. Our library is now able to provide you with a quiet relaxing area to sit and read, look at NH archival material or browse through past magazines...while sitting in comfortable new chairs.

Have you noticed the new sign in front of the Library on Atlantic Avenue? That, too, is the result of your generous help. Contributions may be mailed to Friends of the North Hampton Library, 237A Atlantic Avenue or dropped off at the Library attention to the Friends.

Are you interested in actively participating in the Friends? Call the Library for our next meeting date and time. We welcome new attendees and their ideas.

~ Suzette Miller and Hope Miller, co-chairs

North Hampton Recreation News

It was Harvey Ball, a commercial artist from Worcester, Massachusetts, who created a Smiley image in 1963 that gained such widespread popularity among people all over the world that it soon became the most recognizable symbol of good cheer and happiness.

A smile is a universal language that knows no geography, boundary and religion. Every smiling face is a beautiful one. A smile costs nothing and is contagious. A wonderful smile at someone will sure make his/her day and at the same time, it will help you to freshen yourself. It takes seventeen muscles to smile and forty-three to frown.

I want to share with you a new program and its participants who make me smile, always, whenever I am in their presence, so much that it makes me long to see my parents who live in Florida. The PASA (not pasta!) Programs for Active Senior Adults, finally flew on its own a few months back when three wonderful ladies (Millie, Carolyn & Hazel) arrived at my office and asked me, "What about us?" After spending an hour or so explaining the failed attempts at running PASA, we all left the room with smiles on our faces. I haven't stopped smiling since.

These wonderful people are your parents, your grandparents, or your neighbors. Their exterior shows something all together different on what's inside; youth, humor, spunkiness, vitality - so much more. And every time I complain to them about my balance issue, they laugh. I love to make them laugh. It makes me feel great inside.

Our meetings together are especially my favorites, most recently the Turkey luncheon that I planned for them. I wanted to make THEM smile for all of the smiles that they left on my face. We received donated scrumptious (and cooked!) food from the Old Salt (thank you Mike and Liz Higgins) and Linda Polanski at the Copper Lantern (mmm they have the best dinner rolls) and Bella Rose helped out with a discounted price. Administrator Assistant, Jan Facella, carefully baked & wrapped 35 tasty & adorable apple tarts for them to bring home.

I have to mention a recent trip to the Anheuser Busch Factory in

Merrimack topped a multitude of trips that I have taken during our summer rec camps. I had so much fun and was so relaxed that I joked with them about not running away and to make sure that they had a "buddy." I love to share my PASA stories with my family. So far, we have around 45 members and I hope that this special program continues to grow. On game day, (the 4th Tuesday of the month) I hope to introduce Wii Sports. I betcha I don't have to "let them win" either. If you know anyone who might need to smile and meet fun people, send them our way. PASA awaits them. Their face will hurt by the end of the day. Literally, from smiling and laughing.

This group has brought a breath of fresh air to this department. Thank you!

Oh, I can't forget to thank Santa Claus, (who lives west of here) David Gibbons, who makes the children of North Hampton who still believe, *smile!* A special thank you to the owner of IHOP Newington who came to



*Carline enjoys breakfast with
Santa and Mrs. Claus.*

our Breakfast with Santa and made pancakes! Thank you to my Rec Commish cohorts, Heidi, Sully, Sandy, Kim, Dave, Christine and Sarah for always being my pillar. This year's first Breakfast with Santa was awesome!!!!

In closing, a very merry special thanks to those special people in town who stepped it up when a family was in need and went out and bought & wrapped presents for the families in town who are in need this year. You are part of the fiber that makes this town so unique. There are too many to mention- you know who you are! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!!!

A quick note for Winterfest 2010. It is scheduled for January 30. We need more event sponsors for this fun-filled family day to happen. A Humongous Musical Chairs is scheduled for Friday, January 29. \$10 per chair and the winner wins \$10 of the Chair proceeds!!!

"A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever." –Anonymous.

~ Yours in recreation~ Diane Wheeler, Director

North Hampton Historical Society News

The Historical Society closed out the year with the annual Christmas Party for members only. There are no public programs for the months of January and February. The March 15, 2010 program topic will be "Abraham Lincoln From Springfield, Ill. to Exeter, NH and Beyond" presented by Richard Schubart. April 19th will feature Wendy Bergeron speaking on "American Independence Museum in Exeter". Our May 17th program titled "Highlights of North Hampton Time-Line" will be presented by Jenny Landman and Penny Holbert. They will share documented facts of when nationally reknown personalities visited North Hampton (such as George Washington and Lafayette). They will tell of some locally-significant documented stories, which are still of great interest to us generations later, including facts important to the development of the social network of our town. Some stories shed light on the superstitions of ages past; some stories are humorous secrets now exposed; some stories will make you proud that you walk the same ground our fore-fathers did.

These programs are free and held on the third Monday of the month at 7pm at the United Church of Christ with refreshments following.

New members are always welcome. Dues are \$10 for single and \$15 for couples.

Hope you all have a safe, healthy winter and we look forward to seeing you in March.

~ Beverley J. Frenette, Vice President, North Hampton Historical Society

Community Health Ministry Programs from United Church of Christ in North Hampton

The Health Ministry of the North Hampton United Church of Christ continues in 2010 with the following programs and invite community participation:

1. American Red Cross Blood Donor Drive: Friday, February 5, 2010 @ 2-7pm.
2. Gentle and Wellness Yoga with Kathy Ullrich Certified Instructor of Pathways Yoga Systems begins Thursdays, February 11, 2010; \$40.00 for 5 week session. For more information call Kathy @817-8341
3. Seacoast Visiting Nurse Agency Foot Clinic-second Thursday of the month 11-4; interested persons should call the VNA at 926-2066 for an appointment.
4. Fitness Group- resumes Thursdays from 9:00-10:00am with Marcia Forrest PT. There is no charge.
5. Healing Circle- This monthly program is an opportunity for contemplation, prayer, indoor labyrinth walk, creative expression, and/ or receiving the gift of healing touch. It is held on the third Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30pm.

For more information on these programs please contact Janet Sanborn RN Faith Community Nurse at 964-8687.



North Hampton's Revolutionary War Militia Memorialized in Oil Painting

Priscilla Leavitt, Curator of the North Hampton Historical Society, accepted a gift of an 18 X 36" oil painting from Jenny Landman, local artist and chairperson of the North Hampton Heritage Commission. The painting "Before the Battle" depicts 20 North Hampton men in Captain Moses Leavitt's company in Col. Abraham Drake's Regiment at the Battle of Bemis Heights October 7, 1777, the second battle at Saratoga. The painting is now on display in the mini-historical museum in the "old" Town Office (field stone building) in North Hampton on Atlantic Avenue.

The North Hampton Heritage Commission published a brochure on the bat-

tle which includes a brief history on the individuals from North Hampton. For more information on the battle, pick up the free brochure at the Town Office or visit the North Hampton web site's Heritage page.

www.northhampton-nh.gov/Public_Documents/NorthHamptonNH_BComm/Heritage

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by Informing the Community*

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